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**Boyd Briefs**  
February 9, 2018



### From Dean Dan

We are excited to host three important symposiums over the next few weeks.

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, Mark Yudof, one of the leading figures in American higher education, will host "**Free Speech on Campus** ." Mr. Yudof is the former president of the University of California System and former chancellor of the University of Texas System. He will be joined by Howard Gillman, chancellor at UC Irvine, Ken Waltzer, the Executive Director of the Academic Engagement Network, along with members of the law school faculty and others for a discussion on the First Amendment and free speech in the context of higher education. My thanks to Jeanne Price, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, who lead the charge assembling this timely and important discussion.

" **Battling the Opioid Epidemic: Critical Insights from Healthcare and Law** " on Feb. 23 will bring together experts to discuss the science of addiction and model policy reforms in Nevada, other states, and other countries. Featured speakers include: Corey Davis, JD, MSPH (Deputy Director & Staff Attorney, The Network for Public Health Law), Kelly Dineen, RN, JD, PhD (Assistant Professor and Director of the Health Law Program, Creighton University School of Law), and George Knapp, Chief Reporter (KLAS Channel 8's I-Team Investigative Unit). This important conference would not have been possible without the tireless work of Associate Dean Christine Smith and Dr. David Orentlicher, UNLV Health Law Program Co-Director and Cobega Law Firm Professor of Law.

The "**Thirteenth Amendment Project** " on March 3 will gather scholars from law schools and academic departments to discuss how the Thirteenth Amendment is potentially part of legislation, litigation and discussions aimed at reducing economic injustice in the United States. Many thanks to Ruben Garcia, Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Research, who has been organizing this project for many months.

I welcome you to join us for these explorations of scholarship and policy.

Best,

Dan  
Dean & Richard J. Morgan Professor of Law  
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## Faculty Spotlight: Thomas B. McAfee



*Thomas McAfee is a William S. Boyd Professor of Law whose expertise is within Constitutional Law.*

### **What is the most significant issue facing your field and how should it be addressed?**

I think it will be the constitutional crisis that eventually will come under the Trump presidency. The President appears to be involved in a "slow burn" Saturday Night Massacre; that could easily create a crisis by itself if it continues. Beyond the immediate context, the President appears to have engaged in at least obstruction of justice. It is not clear how much else will be easily proved, but the actions of the administration suggest that he is at least in stonewalling mode. We just need to stay the course and defend the Russian probe, insisting that the President do the same.

### **What is it about being a law school professor that inspires or motivates you?**

I find that *almost everything* sooner or later turns on one's theory of human nature and ultimate values. I recently read a not-new interview with Barack Obama, and he was asked: "who is your favorite political philosopher"? His response: Reinhold Niebuhr, who combined a realism about human nature with a sound philosophy of human justice. I read Niebuhr as an undergraduate philosophy major, and his writings have influenced my own views of constitutional decision-making. When I recently led a Facebook post with a Niebuhr quotation, an old friend wrote: don't you miss the days when we had a President who had read Niebuhr?

### **What have you read, listened to, or watched recently that has influenced you or your work?**

I was deeply touched by Gene Robinson's book, *God Believes in Love: Straight Talk About Gay Marriage*. The book is directly about the topic of the book I am trying to complete. Robinson was the first openly gay person elected to be an Episcopal Bishop. As one with a granddaughter who "came out" to her parents a couple of years ago, it meant a great deal to read a thoughtful Christian's defense of sexual minorities and explanation of why "celibacy" is not the answer to the reality of a different sexual orientation.

## Student Spotlight: Stephanie Glantz



### **Your journey to law school began at 7, yes?**

Yeah, I guess you could say that! I was 7 when I first testified in front of the Nevada Legislature. I was working with my assemblywoman at the time to take smoking out of grocery stores, and later testified for the bill that took smoking out of Nevada's restaurants.

### **As a proud northern Nevadan and graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno and Reno's McQueen High School, how have you enjoyed your last three years here in Nevada's southern half?**

As much as my Northern Nevada family will probably hang me by my toes for saying this, I have loved my last three years in Las Vegas! There is so much to do down here, and I found a support system in my friends at Boyd that have really become my family. Also, the whole 75 and sunny for half of the year thing can't be beat, even if it means dealing with 120 in the summer!

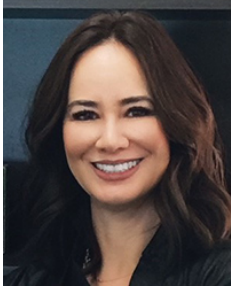
### **What's your biggest takeaway from your time as editor-in-chief of the *Nevada Law Journal*?**

Oh man, where to start! I think my biggest takeaway would just be the amount I've grown as a person and professionally. Being editor-in-chief has challenged me in so many different ways, but has been incredibly rewarding. Looking back on my time at Boyd, it is the experience that has made the biggest impact on me, and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity.

### **Following graduation and the bar exam, where to?**

I will be clerking for Justice Mark Gibbons at the Nevada Supreme Court in Carson City and then returning to Las Vegas to work for Bailey Kennedy, where I was a summer associate last year.

### **Alumni Spotlight : Ruth Miller '01**



*Ruth is Assistant General Counsel for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.*

#### **Tell me about your decision to attend Boyd School of Law.**

I am a native Las Vegas. I graduated from UNLV in 1994 with a degree in health care administration. I wanted to attend law school, but there were no law schools in Nevada at that time. Nor could I leave the state because my mother had become very ill. The UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law opened the same year as my mother's passing. I enrolled in the part-time program, and worked my way through school. That program enabled me to obtain a job while in law school at the Nevada Attorney General's office, working for the Nevada Department of Transportation ("NDOT").

#### **What is it you like about being a government lawyer in civil practice?**

A civil service position is what you make of it. It becomes a calling when you devote yourself to serving the public by being helpful and fair. First, working with NDOT, and now working with Metro, I have been able to work with my clients, gain their trust, and promote changes that make sense to the agency and result in better service to the community. I have found that my governmental clients are often willing to alter long-standing practices (granted, sometimes only after lots of meetings and memos) when it becomes clear that those practices are inefficient or fail to further the public interest.

#### **What advice would you give a new lawyer?**

If you have an opportunity to participate in a jury trial, go for it! From conducting a jury voir dire through talking to the jury after the conclusion of the case, you learn about the public's attitudes toward your client and the justice system. Once the case is finally decided in court, there is a finality to the process. And, as a new lawyer, the experience will help you evaluate and negotiate future cases.

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